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For Immediate Release

Excise Officers Arrest, Cite 24 in Terre Haute

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. (Sept. 21) – Indiana State Excise Police officers cited or arrested 24 people – including a man wanted for felony domestic battery – on 37 charges in Terre Haute Friday and Saturday nights.

Excise officers arrested nine people for furnishing alcohol to minors and eight people for illegal possession or consumption of alcohol.

On Friday, excise officers arrested Robert Huckle, 40, of Terre Haute, after he was found to be wanted on a warrant for a probation violation. He was also cited for inducing a minor to possess alcohol.

Also on Friday, a 14-year-old boy was cited for possession of tobacco when the car he was riding in was stopped after it left a liquor store.

On Saturday, excise officers arrested Joseph Stearley, 22, of Terre Haute, on a felony domestic battery warrant. He was also cited for driving while suspended and disregarding a stop sign.

Excise officers cited three other people for driving while suspended, two for open container violations, one for operating while consuming alcohol, one for littering and eight for various other traffic violations over the weekend. Three people were issued warning tickets.

As the enforcement division of the Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission, the primary mission of the Indiana State Excise Police is to promote public safety by enforcing Indiana's Alcoholic Beverage Code. While excise officers have the authority to enforce any state law, they focus primarily on alcohol, tobacco and related laws.

All criminal defendants are to be presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.